

Session 6.4.2 Moving GIS Forward at Montana DOT: How Strategic Planning is Supporting New Initiatives

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Montana DOT's GIS capabilities have evolved over the years in a mostly ad hoc manner, driven by the need to maintain digital roadway networks and location referencing, along with several applications incorporating spatial data but not integrating with GIS. During 2006, MDT undertook a major project to develop a comprehensive strategic plan for GIS to better plan for integration of GIS across the enterprise. This project has resulted in increased momentum for GIS and has provided a blueprint for the next several years in several critical areas. First, the Plan has stimulated work on upgrading MDT's location referencing management system to incorporate state-of-the-art approaches and tools. Second, an improved organizational framework for GIS and location referencing management is being implemented, with increased support from upper management. Third, new GIS enterprise applications are being considered, designed, and implemented.

The GIS Strategic Plan initiative is not a finite effort, but as a dynamic framework continues to adapt to changing conditions and organizational influences. We will present and discuss lessons learned since the beginning of the project, and provide practical examples of success that could relate to other state DOT GIS environments.